Wetlands
With its wetlands and riparian habitat, the park forms a natural corridor that is rich in historical, ecological and cultural importance to the community. While wetland and riparian ecosystems are the rarest ecosystems in the state, they are the most productive in terms of their plant and wildlife diversity. They also are among the most heavily used and altered ecosystems in the region.

The wetlands encompass the creek and related components of ponds, marshes, playas and wet meadows. Spread throughout the park, the wetlands support a multitude of vegetation.

The pond is a critical part of the riparian ecosystem because it provides a source of sustaining water for wildlife, and for the native vegetation that provides nourishment and cover for many species.

Upland Vegetation
This vegetation is an example of an upland ecosystem, between the riparian zone near the creek, and the wetlands area. Wildlife that inhabit this zone includes insects, songbirds and birds of prey, large numbers of small rodents, rabbits, burrowing mammals, and sometimes foxes and coyotes.

Trail Etiquette
• Share the trail. Ride, walk or run on the right, pass on the left.
• Announce or alert when you are planning to pass.
• Bicyclists yield to equestrians, runners and hikers.
• Dogs must be kept on leash and under control.
• Use caution when using headphones. You may not be able to hear others.
• Be friendly, be courteous.

Enjoy your visit
Visiting early or late in the day is the best time for solitude and viewing wildlife.

Rules and Regulations
Cherry Creek Ecological Park is owned and maintained by Arapahoe County Open Space, Parks, and Trails. The park is open dawn to dusk daily. Any questions regarding the use of this facility, call 720-874-6732. Please report any criminal behavior, or destruction of public property to the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office at 303-795-4711. Emergencies call 911.

Help protect the beauty of this park and the riparian habitat by placing trash in the appropriate containers.

Due to the sensitive nature of the park, please help protect it by abiding by the following rules and regulations:

- Stay on trails while in the park
- Pets must be on a leash at all times
- No swimming or wading in the pond or creek
- No motorized vehicles allowed
- No destruction of park property, wildflowers or plants
- No littering or dumping
- No open fires
- No camping
- No hunting
- No weapons including air rifles, sling shots, bows and arrows
- No launching of model rockets

To learn more about parks in Arapahoe County visit our web site at www.co.arapahoe.co.us or call 720-874-6732.
Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park is a 75-acre environmentally sensitive educational nature preserve along Cherry Creek.

The park is a result of a partnership between Arapahoe County and Parker Jordan Metropolitan District to provide more outdoor and natural resources education and recreation opportunities in southern Arapahoe County. It is one of the first parks of its kind in Arapahoe County that preserves the delicate riparian area surrounded by urban growth and development.

Residents are encouraged to use and enjoy the park’s natural and man-made amenities such as the trails and boardwalk. Walk to the creek or pond and observe the many bird species using the water and the trees to move up and down the corridor.

In the higher and grass covered areas look and listen for ground nesting birds such as the killdeer and meadowlark. Follow the trail south to where it passes beneath the Broncos Parkway Bridge. Notice how the swallows have used the sides of the bridge as a platform to build their nests, just as they used cliff faces for the same purposes.

The Eco Park is home to a diversity of wildlife. Hawks, waterfowl and small mammals are frequently observed. Less commonly seen are reptiles, coyotes, foxes and a variety of small birds.

There is much to observe and learn while in the park so take your time and enjoy your visit.

History
The park was once home to the Arapaho Indians. Even as late as the mid-19th century, hundreds of Arapahos camped along Cherry Creek relying on the many resources the water provided.

The earliest European travelers along Cherry Creek were hunters, traders and trappers, often using the Cherokee Trail, which ran along the eastern side of the creek.

Between 1881 and the mid-1930s, the tracks of Denver, Fort Worth and New Orleans Railroad ran along what is now Jordan Road. Later, ranchers and farmers kept dairy herds and raised corn and alfalfa on this land.

Today, thanks to the foresight of Arapahoe County and the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District, this land was set aside so that you may appreciate the natural features that drew both Native Americans and European settlers to the area.